THE

WEEKLY ENTERTAINER.

For MONDAY, November 3, 1800.

Narrative of a remarkable Murder committed at Leiceſter.

IN the town of Leiceſter there are now the remains of a very old houſe, formerly the Old Blue Boar Inn, where Richard the Third lodged previous to the battle of Boſworth, in the year 1485, and whence he iſſued to that fatal conteſt which put an end to the long and bloody contention between the houſes of York and Lancaſter. The King was killed in the battle; his body, beſmeared with gore, was ſtripped naked, thrown acroſs a horſe, carried to Leiceſter for interment, and his ſtone coffin was afterwards converted into a horſe-trough, belonging to the largeſt inn in the town.

At this ancient houſe a ſingular affair happened, which is thus recorded by Sir John Twiſden, who had the particulars from perſons of veracity:

A bedſtead, which Richard had brought with him, was ſet up for him to lay upon, and remained there when he marched to the field of battle. After his death, no perſon ever came to demand this bedſtead, which was very large, ſtrong, and heavy; it therefore became conſidered as a fixture belonging to the inn, and was transferred accordingly from landlord to landlord with the leaſe of the houſe.

After many perſons had occupied the inn, without any great notice being taken of the bedſtead, it came into the poſſeſſion of a very induſtrious couple, and the room in which the bedſtead was fixed they appropriated to their own uſe. The good woman being one day very buſy in cleaning this chamber, by accident ſtruck the broom with conſiderable

force againſt the bedſtead, and was immediately ſurpriſed by hearing money jingle on the ground. Looking under the bed, ſhe found ſeveral broad pieces of gold, which increaſing her ſurpriſe, ſhe called her huſband, and acquainted him with the whole affair. The man was as much ſurpriſed as his wife, and both being very curious to unravel this myſterious affair, and diſcover ſome more coin if poſſible, they immediately ſtripped the bed-clothes from off the bedſtead. Then ſearching narrowly, they perceived a kind of door, which the ſtroke of the broom had juſt forced open; on which they opened it quite, where to their great joy many other pieces tumbled out. They now found, that what they had taken to be ſolid wood was hollow within, the whole cavity being filled with broad pieces of gold. They immediately ſecured their treaſure, which amounted to a great ſum. The pieces were all freſh, and of the coin of Richard the Third. They, however, imprudently made the affair quite public, through an avaricious deſign of diſpoſing of the pieces for conſiderably more than their intrinſic value. The rumour of this affair brought many of the nobility and gentry to the inn. Thus the cuſtom was not only greatly increaſed, but ten guineas were frequently given for a ſingle piece by thoſe who made their opulence ſubſervient to their curioſity. Thus the innkeeper grew extremely rich; but being of an avaricious temper, he would not quit his inn, or ſacrifice his intereſt to his eaſe. His opulence, however, gave him importance, ſo that he was deemed one of the moſt conſiderable men in the town of Leiceſter, and was once elected Mayor. At length he died, and left the immenſe wealth, concerning which he had been ſo many years ſolicitous, to his wife, whoſe diſpoſition being ſimilar to her huſband's, ſhe likewiſe kept on the inn, though ſhe was near ſeventy years of age.

At length the imagination of her immenſe riches proved a temptation to accompliſh her deſtruction, and induced four wicked wretches to lay a ſcheme not only to rob her, but to murder her likewiſe, in order to prevent diſcovery.

Among the four who had conſpired to deſtroy her was a maid-ſervant, who had lived with her for many years, and her waiter, who had agreed, after the accompliſhment of their villany, to retire to ſome diſtant part of the kingdom to be married, and live at eaſe upon their ill-got treaſure. On the fatal night appointed, they with their vile aſſociates, two indigent townſmen, perpetrated the horrid deed, by cutting the old woman's throat from ear to ear! The bloody act was performed

performed by her maid-ſervant, to whom ſhe had been remarkably kind, and indeed at her death, which could not have been very far off according to the common courſe of nature, ſhe intended to bequeath her a conſiderable legacy. Thus, by having a little patience, ſhe would have been poſſeſſed, without guilt, of more than what came to her ſhare by imbruing her hands in the blood of her innocent miſtreſs. They were, however, all greatly baulked in their expectations, for the old lady had, but a little time before, put out her money to uſe, ſo that they found but a trifle in the houſe. They took, however, what money they could, and packing up plate, linen, wearing apparel, and the moſt valuable moveables, they put all into a cart which they had got in waiting for the purpoſe, and drove away in the middle of the night, leaving all the houſe faſt except a back-door.

In the morning, the people of the town were amazed that the inn was not open at the uſual time. When noon arrived, the inn ſtill continued ſhut, as if it was the dead of night, and many travellers were at the ſame time waiting about the door for entertainment for themſelves and cattle. This raiſed many ſuſpicions, but at length ſeveral of the neighbours applied to the Mayor of Leiceſter, and informed him of their conjectures. The Mayor, with proper officers, repaired to the place, and finding the back-door open, they entered, and ſoon diſcovered that the people's ſurmiſes were but too true, when they perceived that the houſe was ſtripped, and the hoſteſs barbarouſly murdered. A hue and cry was immediately raiſed, and the aſſaſſins were ſo hotly purſued, that they were all apprehended the ſame evening, and brought back to Leiceſter, together with the property they had ſtolen. They were lodged in the jail till the aſſizes, when they were all condemned, the three men to be hanged, and the woman to be burnt. Their ſentence was executed accordingly, and they died unlamented.

NARROW ESCAPE *of a* WELCH BOY.

ON the 6th of October, 1800, about four leagues from the coaſt of North Wales, the people on board one of the Liverpool traders then on her paſſage to Dublin, picked up a drifting boat, in which to their aſtoniſhment they found a fine little boy, of eleven or twelve years of age, who was nearly exhauſted by the united effects of grief, cold, fear, and hunger. After he had been taken on board, the joy of

having eſcaped the dangers he was ſo lately expoſed to from the troubled ocean, and the conſideration of being perhaps for ever ſeparated from his home, and intruded into the ſociety of ſtrangers, whoſe language even he did not know, completely overpowered the faculties of the poor creature; for ſome time he remained in ſullen ſilence, and could not be prevailed upon even to eat. At length, however, the kind treatment and good-natured ſolicitations of the Captain, communicated through the interpretation of a perſon on board who underſtood the Welch tongue, prevailed on him to take ſome refreſhment, and afterwards to communicate the following particulars of his life, and of the events that led to his late forlorn ſituation:

His father, who is a huſbandman in Caernarvonſhire, had this ſon born to him previous to his marriage with the child's mother. To avoid the ſhame that would undoubtedly be thrown on both parties had the connection become known, they determined to ſend this proof of it to ſome diſtance from home, and Lewis was accordingly put out to nurſe at a place ſome miles from Dunvellyn.—Here he remained till a ſhort time ſince, when a quarrel happening between his father and his nurſe, (occaſioned the child ſays, by a refuſal of his father to pay what ſhe demanded) the latter ſent the boy home; but Lewis met not there the warm welcome and ardent affection he had been taught to expect, and that he had enjoyed in his nurſe's hut: an abſence of eleven years had obliterated, in his conception at leaſt, all paternal regard. Diſguſted therefore with his treatment, he left his father's houſe on the Saturday before he was taken up by the veſſel, and careleſs whither he was ſtraying, he had wandered about twenty miles before the evening lowered. He had then reached Bangor Ferry; where he ſolicited from houſe to houſe that refreſhment and repoſe he ſo much ſtood in need of, but in vain. Completely tired, he ſeated himſelf in a boat which was drawn high up on the beach to receive ſome repairs; the fatigue ſoon enveloped him with the mantle of ſleep, which was only undrawn ſome hours after by the rough rocking of his crazy cradle; and he then only knew, that the extremely high tide of the preceding night had floated and borne off his lodging bark. Hunger and fatigue were now forgotten; and he was only actively alive to his perilous ſituation. The approach of every wave ſunk his confidence, which was again ſpeedily elevated at its retreat. Teazed thus by alternate hopes and fears for nearly thirty hours, his ſpirits became exhauſted;

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he ſunk beneath deſpair, and was careleſs of, and almoſt unconſcious to his fate, when reſcued by the ſailors from deſtruction.

The Captain, with a generoſity which does him honour, has adopted the foundling, to whoſe ſurname he has already added that of his own.

The Rev. Mr. Warner's Account of his Viſit to Wookey-Hole.

THE approach to Wookey-Hole is extremely fine. It exhibits a deep indentation in the ſouth-weſtern ſide of Mendip Hills; the back formed by a broad face of perpendicular rock riſing to the height of two hundred feet, naked towards the top, but enriched with foliage and vegetation, thickening as the cliff deſcends. The ſides conſiſt of rocky ſteeps, gradually riſing from the bottom of the dell, till they unite with the cliff above, entirely covered with wood. At the root of the rock which forms the back of this gloomy receſs, a thundering torrent iſſues from an aperture of eleven yards in height, and fourteen in breadth, (impervious, however, on account of the ſtream) and diſcharges itſelf through the bottom, though rendered inviſible by the deep ſhade of the trees which over-canopy it. The road to the cavern, made eaſy and commodious by Mr. Tudway, of Wells, creeps along the ſteep that forms the weſtern ſide of this hollow, and aſcending very gradually, reaches a ledge of rock, about eighty feet above the level of the ſtream below. Here a cavern opens its dire jaws " wide, diſcontinuous," the interior of which is ſafely ſecured, by a door well locked, from the intruſion of the profane. Into this aperture I was introduced, by a guide provided with candles and lanthorn. For the firſt twenty yards we purſued a range of galleries or paſſages, ſufficiently lofty to allow our walking upright. The cavern then aſcends, but narrowing its breadth, and decreaſing in height, it quickly dips again, and ſpreads ſuddenly into a grand opening called the kitchen, ſo high as to preſent nothing to the eye but gloomy vacuity. To this ſucceeds another cavern, called the parlour, more ſpacious and lofty than the former, where incruſtations of whimſical forms, and more whimſical names, appear on all ſides. Here ſuperſtition and imagination, working together, have made out a pillar of ſalt; an enormous petrified kidney;

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a turnſpit dog; a flitch of bacon; and an old witch. The laſt apartment is called the hall, an immenſe hollow, ſtretching one hundred feet in length and breadth, the bottom conſiſting for the moſt part of ſand, hard, fine, and dry. At the extremity of this the rock deſcends to a pool of limpid water, and forbids any further reſearch into its ſecret receſſes.

I had no doubt that a place, ſo well calculated for witches and hobgoblins, had been peopled with theſe active gentry by the inhabitants of its neighbourhood, and queſtioned my guide on the ſubject. He aſſured me, however, that the cavern had never but one inmate, an old witch, who had monopolized the whole of it to herſelf. She had been turned, years ago, into a ſtone, by a parſon, as ſhe was cooking a child in her kitchen, which ſhe had ſtolen from the village; but he had heard his grandmother ſay, her father remembered the wicked old woman, as well as the tricks ſhe played; how ſhe would maim the cattle, bewitch the young maids, and torture the old people with cramps and twitches. Fortunately for the lovers of legend, the tradition related by my guide, has been reſcued from the inſatiable maw of oblivion, by a modern poet [Dr. Harrington, of Bath, in his poem entitled "The Witch of Wokey,] who has drawn out the oral tale into viſion, and ſecured it to poſterity by an elegant verſification, the beauty of which will enſure its duration.

Deſcription of the Caſtles of Saint Elmo and Dell Ovo; with the Mole and Port of Naples, &c.

By ROBERT FREEBAIRN, *Landſcape-Painter.*

THE Caſtle of St. Elmo is ſituated upon a very conſiderable eminence, and commands an intereſting view of the city and port of Naples, with the whole of its extenſive bay, and the neighbouring iſlands.

Anciently, there was only a ſmall tower on this mountain, more for the purpoſe of obſervation than as a place of defence, and which was deſtroyed in order to erect a fortreſs for the protection of Naples. It afterwards underwent great alterations by order of the Emperor Charles the Fifth, and by that monarch received important additions.

This Caſtle occupies a large extent, and is a place of conſiderable importance, having a moſt complete command of the city. A great part of the fortifications are cut out of

the mountain (which is compoſed of rock), particularly thoſe parts which look towards the eaſt. Near the centre is a fine ſquare, with numerous apartments for the garriſon. It is alſo plentifully ſupplied with water, which is held in high eſtimation on account of its extreme coldneſs;—a luxury of the firſt importance in a warm climate.

The batteries are excellently furniſhed with the fineſt pieces of ordnance, many of which are of braſs; and the various magazines are well ſtored with ammunition, and every other article neceſſary for defence.

It is ſaid that a ſecret ſubterraneous road leads from this, to the Caſtle dell Ovo, which is a deſcent of more than a mile in length.

The Caſtle dell Ovo is a picturesque building erected upon a rock, at a ſmall diſtance in the bay, and has a communication with the city by a bridge of more than two hundred paces in length. The rock upon which the Caſtle now ſtands, was formerly united to the hill oppoſite (but had been ſeparated by an earthquake), upon the ſummit of which ſtood an elegant villa belonging to Lucullus, and in its neighbourhood were many excellent baths, much frequented by the ancients.

In this fortreſs are judiciouſly diſpoſed a great number of the fineſt artillery, which effectually command the harbour and ſhipping.

The Neapolitans ſpeak much of an immenſe piece of braſs ordnance, which is ſaid to have carried a ball of 120 pounds; it was however found from its extreme ſize to be uſeleſs, and was therefore deſtroyed.

Within the exterior wall of the Caſtle is a beautiful triumphal arch, which was purpoſely erected for the entry of Alfonſo the Firſt, after the conqueſt of Naples; and is the production of Pietro di Martino, a Milaneſe architect. They ſhew a bronze gate, with a number of baſſo-relievos, deſcriptive of the exploits of the houſe of Arragon. As a proof of its ſtrength, you are deſired to obſerve a cannon-ball that has penetrated into it, and which they allow to remain as an object of curioſity.

From the parade you are conducted, by a noble flight of ſteps, into the armoury, which is a ſtately apartment, and where arms are conſtantly kept ſufficient for fifty thouſand men.

Contiguous to the Caſtle are the arſenal, an excellent foundry for braſs cannon, and various other maritime eſtabliſhments. The mole is ſpacious, and affords a ſecure protection

tection to the ſhipping: upon it is erected a tower of great height, called La Lanterna del Molo, which is every night brilliantly illuminated for the ſafety of the adventurous mariner. It is ſome centuries ſince the light-houſe and mole were firſt formed, both of which have, in more modern time, received conſiderable improvements, which have afforded important advantages to the city of Naples.

A great number of ſhipping from all parts of Europe arrive here, but more particularly from England, where merchants meet with an ample ſale for their ſeveral commodities. We were aſſured from good authority, that the article of Birmingham-made dollars is no inconſiderable part of traffic; and I believe it is not an entire ſecret with thoſe acquainted with the Mediterranean to ſay, that it is cuſtomary with ſome Captains, occaſionally to take from England a certain quantity (which are bought by weight), or at leaſt ſufficient to procure many conveniences while in port.

The numerous aſſemblage of foreigners from Europe, from the African coaſt, from Conſtantinople, and the Greek iſlands, affords a variety of character, both in dreſs and manners, not frequently to be met with; and which afford objects highly intereſting to the artiſt: here he has an admirable opportunity of ſtudying the contraſt of figure and dreſs of the different nations, who meet at this mart of commerce.

The dreſſes of the Africans and Greeks are truely picturesque, ariſing from a variety and richneſs of colour in their apparel, and the eaſy, light manner in which they are clothed. The European mode of dreſs is certainly injurious to a fine form; hence it is, that the modern ſculptor and hiſtoric painter labour under many diſadvantages which the ancient artiſts did not, particularly the Greeks; who in their exhibition of their gymnaſtic games, had daily opportunities of ſtudying the maſcular exertions of the human figure in every poſſible poſition.

I am led to theſe remarks from the obſervations we made, while at Naples, on ſome Tuniſens, and others from the Greek iſlands, who, from their mode of dreſs, poſſeſſed a ſhape more approaching to the beauty of the antique ſtatues, than any living figure we had yet ſeen.

Curious INSTANCE *of* EASTERN KNOWLEDGE.

WITH reſpect to binomial theorem, the application of it to fractional indices will, perhaps, for ever remain

the exclusive property of Newton; but the following question and its solution, evidently shew that the Hindoos understood it in whole numbers to the full as well as Briggs, and much better than Pascal. Dr. Hutton, in a valuable edition of Sherwin's Tables, has lately done justice to Briggs; but Mr. Whitchell, who some years before pointed out Briggs as the undoubted inventor of the differential method, said he had found some indications of the binomial theorem in much older authors. The method, however, by which that great man investigated the powers independent of each other, is exactly the same as that in the following translation from the Sanscrit.

A Rajah's palace had eight doors; now these doors may either be opened by one at a time or by two at a time, or by three at a time, and so on through the whole, till at last all are opened together; it is required to tell the number of times this can be done?

Set down the number of the doors, and proceed in order, gradually decreasing by one to unity, and then in contrary order as follows:—

8	7	6	5	4	3	2	1
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8

Divide the first number 8 by the unit under it, and the quotient 8 shews the number of times the doors can be opened by one at a time: multiply this last 8 by the next term 7, and divide the product by the 2 beneath it, and the result 28 is the number of times that two different doors may be opened; multiply the last found 28 by the next figure 6, and divide the product by the 3 beneath it, and the quotient 56 shews the number of times that three different doors may be opened. Again this 56 multiplied by the next 5, divided by the 4 beneath it, is 70, the number of times that four different doors may be opened: in the same manner 56 is the number of 5's that can be opened; 28 the number of times that 6 can be opened; 8 the number of times that 7 can be opened; and lastly, 1 is the number of times the whole may be opened together; and the sum of all the different times is 255.

HINTS RELATIVE *to* AGRICULTURE.

THE increasing dearness of most of those kinds of grain that are commonly employed in the feeding of hogs,

poultry, and other domeſtic animals, ſhould lead farmers to the cultivation of ſuch other ſubſtances as can be advantageouſly grown on the poorer ſorts of ſoil, and employed with equal or ſuperior effects as articles of food for them. Of this ſort is buck-wheat, which, from the few attempts that have been made with it, has been found to be readily cultivated; to thrive well on ſoils of inferior qualities, and to be highly productive. For this grain, the ground ſhould be ploughed ſo as to render it tolerably fine; it may then be ſown about the ſame time, and in the ſame way as barley, and at the rate of two buſhels and an half to the acre. Little or no cultivation is neceſſary while the crop is growing, and it may be cut at the ſame period as other grain.

So far as we have been able to aſcertain its powers in fattening animals, it has conſtantly been ſuperior to both oats and barley.

The commoner ſorts of potatoes, ſuch as thoſe that are termed yams, may be cultivated with great profit for the ſame purpoſes, as they are not only very productive, but capable of being raiſed on poor land, and when prepared by means of ſteam are highly nutritious and fattening to various ſorts of animals. They go much further than is generally ſuppoſed when given in this way. Beſides, the growing of this root is an excellent preparation for wheat.

In the feeding and fattening of all ſorts of animals, in order to produce the greateſt effects, different kinds of food ſhould be alternately made uſe of: by this method they may be made fat at conſiderable leſs expence, and in much leſs time, than by the ordinary mode of confining them to one particular ſort of meat. This is a fact that has long been noticed by graziers, who, to expedite the fattening of their cattle, have frequently recourſe to the change of paſture.

It would ſeem alſo probable, that by proper attention to variety in the food of milch cows, and the more frequent milking of them, much larger quantities of milk might be produced, as the ſecretion of that fluid would thereby be conſiderably promoted. Grains, turnips, cabbages, graſs, and hay might be conveniently enough alternately employed with this view. Some part of this ſyſtem of management has indeed been adopted by intelligent cow-keepers, but the whole, we believe, might very beneficially be put in execution.

An

An Account of an Embaſſy to the kingdom of Ava, ſent by the Governor General of India, in 1795, *by Michael Symes, Eſq. Major in his Majeſty's* 76*th Regiment.*

MAJOR SYMES very properly prefixes to his account of this embaſſy, an abridged hiſtory of the kingdom of Ava, a country at preſent but little known, though, from its ſituation and extent, of conſiderable importance to the commercial and political intereſts of our Indian ſettlements. The recent extenſion of our territorial acquiſitions in this diſtant quarter of the globe, and the important conſequences which cannot fail to reſult from it, render it a duty incumbent on the public to afford every poſſible encouragement to thoſe who have the ability and the inclination to enlarge the ſtock of our knowledge, reſpecting nations which may be deſtined, as our allies or enemies, to play a conſpicuous part in the theatre of Indian politics.

There are certainly no civilized countries on the habitable globe, of which we have ſo imperfect a knowledge, as of thoſe extenſive territories which are ſituated between the Britiſh poſſeſſions in India, and the vaſt empire of China.

The ancients knew little more than that ſuch a country as India extra Gangem did exiſt. And the darkneſs which obſcured its hiſtory was not, even partially, diſpelled, until the cloſe of the fifteenth century, when Malacca was taken poſſeſſion of by the Portugueſe, and the foundation of general wealth to Europe was laid on the deſtruction of the Egyptian and the Venetian trade.

To the writers of Portugal are we chiefly indebted for the little information which has been obtained on the eaſtern parts of India; information, obſcured indeed, by a copious mixture of fiction, and confuſed by a variety of hyberbolical ornament, but ſtill valuable; even from the monſtrous productions of that prince of liars, Mendez de Pinto, much uſeful intelligence may be extracted.

"From the teſtimony of the Portugueſe hiſtorians it appears, that in the middle of the ſixteenth century, four powerful ſtates divided amongſt them the regions that lie between the ſouth-eaſt province of Britiſh India, Yunan in China, and the Eaſtern Sea; their territories extended from Caſſay and Aſſam,* on the N. W. as far ſouth eaſtward as the iſland of Junkſeylon. Theſe nations were known to Europeans by the names of Arracan, Ava, Pegue, and Siam. Arracan,

* There are ſome petty independent Princes whoſe lands intervene.

properly Yee-Kein, borders on the S. E. province of Britiſh India, and includes the coaſt, with what is called the Broken Iſlands, as far ſouth as Cape Negrais.†

" Ava, the name of the ancient capital of the Birmans, has been uſually accepted, as the name of the country at large, which is Miamma. This empire is ſituated eaſtward of Arracan, from which it divided by a ridge of lofty mountains, called by the natives Anou-pec-tou-miou, or the great weſtern hilly country.

" On the N. W. it is ſeparated from the kingdom of Caſſay by the river Keen-duem; on the north it is bounded by mountains and petty independent principalities, that lie contiguous to Aſſam; on the north-eaſt and eaſt, it touches on China, and North Siam; on the ſouth, its limits have ſo often varied, that it is difficult to aſcertain them with any preciſion.

The city of Prome‡ or Pee, ſeems to be the original and natural boundary of the Birman empire, although conqueſt has ſince ſtretched their dominion ſeveral degrees farther ſouth. Pegue, called by the natives Bagoo, is the country ſouthward of Ava, which occupies the ſea coaſt as far as Martaban, properly Mondimaa: Prome was its northern frontier, and Siam adjoined on the eaſt.

" The kingdom of Siam, or Shaan, comprehended as far ſouth as Junkſeylon, eaſt to Cambodia and Laos, and north to Dzmee, (probably the Chiamee of Loubere,) and Yunan in China. This nation calls itſelf Tai, and is further diſtinguiſhed by the appellations Tai-yay, or great Tai, and Tai-nay, or little Tai; their former capital was named Yodia, or Yoodra; by De Pinto, Codia; whence the Siameſe are frequently, by the Birmans, denominated Yoodras. Theſe boundaries, however, may be conſidered rather as the claim of each ſtate, than its actual poſſeſſion: viciſſitudes of victory and defeat alternately extended and contracted their dominions.

" Pinto, and Faria de Souza, agreed that the Birmans, though formerly ſubject to the King of Pegue, became afterwards maſters of Ava, and cauſed a revolution in Pegue, about the middle of the ſixteenth century. Hamilton, a much more recent author, ſays, that the kingdom of the Birmans extended from " Maravi," probably Mergui, near Tenaſſerem,

† See Hamilton's new account of the Eaſt-Indies.

‡ It is doubtful whether Prome, of right, belonged to Ava or Pegue; it was claimed by both, and often changed its poſſeſſor.

Tenaſſerem, to the province of Yunan in China, about 8000 miles from north to ſouth, and 250 from eaſt to weſt.

The Portugueſe aſſiſted the Birmans in their wars againſt the Pegeurs, and, according to Pinto, performed prodigies of valour. The account of the capture of Martaban, and the treaſures found therein, far exceeds the limits of belief.

" The Portugueſe continued to exerciſe an influence in the Birman and Pegue countries, and a ſtill greater in Arracan, ſo long as they maintained an aſcendency over other European nations in the eaſt, but on the ſeizure of their ſettlements, and abridgement of their dominions by the Dutch, the conſequence that had been deſervedly annexed to the Portugueſe name ſunk into inſignificance; and the Chriſtian ſettlers degenerated into a contemptible race, diſtinguiſhed only by their feebleneſs and vice.

" During the reign of Louis XIV. ſeveral ſplendid attempts were made to propagate the doctrines of the Church of Rome, and advance the intereſts of the French nation, in the kingdom of Siam.

" Concerning theſe expeditions, accounts of unqueſtionable fidelity have been publiſhed; little, however is related of Ava, and Pegue, with whom, the Abbe Choiſy ſays " The King of Siam was conſtantly at war."

We find that at the beginning of the ſeventeenth century, the Engliſh and Dutch obtained ſettlements in different parts of the Birman dominions; and that, in 1687, the former took poſſeſſion of the iſland of Negrais, but their attention being occupied by the precarious ſtate of their affairs in another quarter of Aſia, this ſettlement was turned to no account.

" The ſupremacy of the Bramins over the Pegeurs continued throughout the laſt, and during the firſt forty years of the preſent century, when the Pegeurs in the province of Della, Martaban, Tongo, and Prome, revolted; a civil war enſued, which was proſecuted with great warmth on both ſides and ſavage ferocity.

" In the year 1744, the Britiſh factory at Syriam was deſtroyed by the contending parties, and the views of commerce were ſuſpended by precautions of perſonal ſecurity. Succeſs long continued doubtful: at length the Peguers, by the aid of arms procured from Europeans trading to their ports, and with the aſſiſtance of ſome renegade Dutch and native Portugueſe, gained ſeveral victories over the Birmans, in the years 1750 and 1751. Theſe advantages they purſued with ſo much vigour, that, early in 1752, the capital of Ava

was

was inveſted. The Birmans, diſheartened by repeated defeats, after a ſhort ſiege, ſurrendered at diſcretion. Dweepdee, the laſt of a long line of Birman Kings, was made priſoner with all his family, except two ſons, who effected their eſcape to the Siameſe; from whom they found a friendly reception, and were flattered with aſſurances of ſecurity and ſuccour."

"But a revolution not more extraordinary than unexpected was ſoon atchieved by a Birman, named Alompra, a man of low extraction, who, after various ſucceſſive ſtruggles, ſucceeded not merely in recovering the Birman territory, but in completing the conqueſt of Pegue, and in ſecuring for himſelf the abſolute monarchy of the whole united country. This tranſaction took place at the commencement of the year 1757. During his reign, which ended with his life in 1760, he took every means that prudence could ſuggeſt, or ambition deviſe, for the conſolidation of his power, and the extenſion of his dominions.

"Conſidering the limited progreſs the Birmans had yet made, in arts that refine, and ſcience that tends to expand, the human mind, Alompra, whether viewed in the light of a politician, or a ſoldier, is undoubtedly entitled to reſpect. The wiſdom of his councils ſecured what his valour had acquired; he was not more eager for conqueſt, than attentive to the improvement of his territories, and the proſperity of his people; he iſſued a ſevere edict againſt gambling, and prohibited the uſe of ſpirituous liquors throughout his dominions; he reformed the rhooms, or courts of juſtice; he abridged the power of magiſtrates, and forbade them to decide at their private houſes on criminal cauſes, or property, where the amount exceeded a ſpecified ſum; every proceſs of importance was decided in public, and every decree regiſtered. His reign was ſhort but vigorous; and had his life been prolonged, it is probable, that his country would at this day have been farther advanced in national refinement and the liberal arts."

The Rev. Mr. Beeke's Obſervations on the Population of Great Britain.

IN attempting to calculate from data, which had never before been made uſe of, I could not hope to eſcape ſome errors, which fuller information and repeated conſideration

of the ſubject have enabled me to detect. But it is no ſmall gratification to me to be able to ſay that I was not betrayed into any exaggeration. I have ſince collected a conſiderable body of evidence, which, when properly examined, uniformly confirms my aſſertion, that the population of England and Wales is really not much leſs than 11,000,000; and ſhows that a greater portion of it is agricultural than I even ventured to ſuppoſe; and that it has been, and ſtill is, increaſing with a rapidity which far exceeds the opinions that are generally entertained reſpecting it.

I ſhall not detain the reader from the immediate object of inquiry by any minute detail of the facts on which theſe aſſertions are founded; becauſe I hope that a ſhort time will enable me to offer to the public, a "View of the Progreſs and preſent State of the Population of England and Wales," which will contain authentic documents that confirm all I have ſaid on this ſubject in its fulleſt extent.

From theſe documents, it will appear probable that the population of England and Wales (which is generally admitted to have been about 6,500,000 in the year 1700, and which rather diminiſhed till after the peace of Utrecht), had, in the year 1757, when the militia was firſt raiſed by ballot, increaſed to rather more than eight millions. From that time to the end of the American war, the increaſe amounted to about one million; and ſince the concluſion of that war, has amounted to almoſt two millions more, making the preſent number between 10,500,000 and 11,000,000. It is alſo probable that this increaſe is now continuing at the rate of conſiderably more than 100,000 annually, after deducting all commercial and military waſte.

The cauſes of this rapid increaſe are not at all difficult to explain; and the proofs of it reſt on the militia liſts and others of a ſimilar kind; on parochial regiſters; on the proportion of houſes aſſeſſed to the whole number; on the diſtribution and employments of the people; and on a compariſon of thoſe documents with actual enumerations.

If it had occurred to Dr. Price to refer to the militia liſts, or even only to ſtate his argument from aſſeſſed houſes, by ſeparate counties, inſtead of reaſoning from the aggregate number, there can be little doubt but that he would immediately have diſcovered the cauſes of his miſtake, in calculating the population at little more than half the true number when he wrote; and the general prejudices on this ſubject would long ſince have been removed.

In

In the premiſes on which he founded his calculation of the population of Middleſex and London, there are three very important and demonſtrable miſtakes, by which the number depending on that calculation is reduced more than one-fifth.

London and Middleſex increaſed very rapidly during the early part of the preſent century, but diminiſhed for a conſiderable ſpace of time after the ruinous South-Sea year, and have again very remarkably increaſed ſince 1770.

The population of both together was

in 1700	about	620,000
in 1722	- -	800,000
in 1748	- -	750,000
in 1799	-	1,000,000

OSSIAN's ADDRESS *to the* SUN.

O Thou that rolleſt above, round as the ſhield of my fathers, whence are they beams, O Sun! whence thy everlaſting light! thou comeſt forth in thy awful beauty, and the ſtars hide themſelves in the ſky. The moon, cold and pale, ſinks in the weſtern wave; but thou, thou thyſelf, moveſt alone! Who can be a companion of thy courſe? The oaks of the mountains fall, the mountains themſelves decay with years, the ocean ſhrinks and grows again, the moon herſelf is loſt in heaven; but thou art for ever the ſame, rejoicing in the brightneſs of thy courſe! when the world is dark with tempeſts; when the thunder rolls and lightning flies, thou lookeſt in thy beauty from the clouds, and laugheſt at the ſtorm. But to Oſſian thou lookeſt in vain; for he beholds thy beams no more, whether thy yellow hair flows on the eaſtern cloud, or thou trembleſt at the gates of the weſt.

REFLECTIONS.

THE badneſs of the times (as the vulgar phraſe expreſſes a ſcene of diſtreſs), frequently depends more on thoſe who govern the ſhip, than the weather.

When the ſpirit of intellect purifies the groſſneſs of ſenſuality, the table furniſhes a cheering recruit for nature, and the feaſt is exquiſitely gratifying, and fit for a rationaliſt.

CHARACTER *of* KING CHARLES II.

By the Rev. Mr. BELSHAM.

CHARLES the SECOND was endowed by nature with qualities which gave him a juſt title to popularity, and his wonderful reſtoration to the throne of his anceſtors, amidſt the univerſal acclamations of his ſubjects, after twenty years of calamity and confuſion, ſeemed to prognoſticate a reign of unexampled felicity. Adverſity has been ſtiled the ſchool of princes, and he poſſeſſed a capacity which might have enabled him to derive the moſt eſſential benefits from its diſcipline. His knowledge, though not extenſive or profound, was of that ſpecies, which, in public life, is of the higheſt importance, and which, if it had been rightly applied, would have conferred an honourable diſtinction upon his character. He was well acquainted with hiſtory and politics; he underſtood the intereſts of his country, and perfectly knew the rank ſhe was entitled to hold amongſt the powers of Europe. He was poſſeſſed of the moſt inſinuating and graceful addreſs, and, without departing from the dignity of his ſtation, he knew how to charm all who approached his perſon by the unaffected condeſcenſion and engaging affability of his manners. Notwithſtanding, however, the flattering appearances which raiſed ſo high the hopes of his ſubjects and the expectations of the world, ſuch and ſo great were his deviations from the ſtandard of political and moral rectitude, that he incurred, before the concluſion of his reign, the indignation, the odium, and contempt of every friend of liberty and virtue.

Anſwer, by G. Hazel, of Clovelly, to T. Warren's Queſtion, inſerted June 16.

LET x repreſent the □ of the perpendicular of the △, put b=□ of 48—c=□ 21, d=□ of 5, and e=□ of 5, and e=□ of 3. Then per queſtion, and nature of a △, we have x+b=□ of the longeſt ſide, and x+c=□ of the ſhorteſt ſide. Further, per queſtion, we have this ratio: As d:e:: x+b:x+c. Hence dx+dc=ex+eb, from which we have x=606,9375. The □ of the perpendicular being found, the required ſides are eaſily diſcovered to be = 53,953, and $32,3718$, for as $5:3::53,953:32,3718$. Q. E. D.

*** We have received the like anſwer from J. B. Chivers, of St. Auſtell.

Anſwer, by R. Baker, of the Poole Volunteers, to J. Staple's Charade, inſerted July 28.

AS o'er the narrow FORD of life we ſteer,
May we be ABLE ever to keep clear
From all the "ſhallow miſeries" which lie
In this our paſſage to eternity.

☞ We have received the like anſwer from R. Andrews, of Kingſbridge; G. Andrews, of Modbury; R. Champion, near Caſtle Cary; G. Coulman, of Broadhempſtone; and R. Maſſett, of Saltaſh.

A REBUS, *by W. G. of Yeovil.*

A Number firſt, ye gents. is my deſire;
A city next, good Sirs, in Devonſhire;
A ruling paſſion now, ye ſcribes, unfold;
A bride of Neptune's next I pray behold;
And now a mountain where the gods reſide;
What was my firſt's my laſt, and nought beſides;
The initials rightly join'd with plenty ſhew
A Britiſh hero to his country true.

A CHARADE, *by P. Gove, of Exeter.*

WHEN night ſheds its veil o'er the plain,
And mortals lie buried in ſleep;
When the late cloudy ſky is ſerene,
And ſilence reigns o'er the deep.

When the flocks are retir'd to the fold,
And the ſhepherd has lain by his pipe,
My firſt you may then, gents. behold,
Conſpicuous and pleaſing to ſight.

When Aurora her bluſhes diſplays,
And the mountains are tinged with gold.
Its beauty fades ſwiftly away,
And my ſecond you'll clearly behold.

My whole from theſe parts will ariſe,
Which ſpeedily you will diſplay,
For ſlender and faint's the diſguiſe,
And quickly muſt vaniſh away.

POETRY.

THE MAGDALEN.

[Founded on a Circumſtance, which really happened in London.]

A Fair one frail, by love betray'd,
Who long had mourn'd her loſs of fame,
Took refuge in the houſe of peace*;
Emilia was her happier name.

Wan was her cheek, her viſage pale,
Yet ſweetly beam'd her languid eye;
Her faded form ſtill own'd a grace,
Which almoſt might with beauty vie.

Her modeſt air, her decent grief,
Beſpoke her of no mean deſcent;
Her tears, her never ceaſing pray'rs,
Evinc'd a heart with anguiſh rent.

Two years in ſilent ſorrow pals'd;
A rev'rend paſtor preſs'd to know
(In hopes to eaſe her lab'ring breaſt),
The ſource of ſuch relentleſs woe.

" Why urge the ungrateful theme?" ſhe cry'd!
" Guilt is the ſource of all my grief;
" I've ſtain'd a father's cheek with ſhame:
" In vain you'd miniſter relief.

" In vain the flatterer hope would urge
" A parent's heart is mercy's ſeat;
" That he'd not ſee my tears unmov'd,
" Unmov'd behold me at his feet.

" How could I dare to view that face,
" Where once the kindeſt feelings ſhone!
" How dare to meet a father's look,
" And know thoſe kindeſt feelings gone!

" You, Rev'rend Sir, who thus have wrung
" From guilt her melancholy tale;
" When I am dead, Oh! ſhade my crimes,
" With dark oblivion's thickeſt veil!"

With tend'reſt charity inſpir'd,
The holy man, with ſoothing art,
Thus calm'd the tumults of deſpair,
And cheer'd the mourner's drooping heart:

" Huſh'd be your ſorrows, helpleſs fair!
" Renounce theſe agonizing tears;
" Your earthly parent will forgive,
" And love divine accept your tears."

He

* The Magdalen Hoſpital.

He then, with ſteps of anxious ſpeed,
Haſtes to her father's diſmal home:—
"A ſuppliant for your child," he ſaid,
"To thee for pardon am I come."

"Shame on the wretch!" the father cry'd;
(Yet forth eſcap'd one burſting ſigh):
"I'll not forgive;—but take this gold,
"As from yourſelf her wants ſupply.

"Oh! how my fond, my doating ſoul,
"In her did every comfort find!
"I thought, alas! her beauteous face
"An index of her perfect mind."

"Faded, he ſaid, "is now that face;
"Too ſoon the icy hand of death
"(While you refuſe her laſt requeſt),
"For ever ſtops Emilia's breath!"

"Death, ſaidſt thou? No! ſhe ſhall not die!
"Conduct me to my much-lov'd child:
"Oh! let me fold her in my arms,
"And ſpeak ſweet mercy's accents mild!"

He went, and with a parent's voice
He ſpake ſweet mercy's accents mild:
His love return'd, within his arms
He long'd to ſtrain his ſorrowing child.

Mute on his face awhile ſhe gaz'd:
"And art thou, art thou come?" ſhe cry'd;
"Raptur'd with joy, my ſpirits fail!"
Then falling at his feet, ſhe dy'd.

DESCRIPTION *of the* ANGRY BULL.

By JAMES HURDIS, D. D.

——'TIS pleaſure to approach,
And by the ſtrong fence ſhielded, view ſecure
Thy terrors, nature, in the ſavage bull!
Soon as he marks me, be the tyrant fierce,
To earth deſcends his head; hard breathe his lungs
Upon the duſty ſod; a ſulky leer
Gives double horror to the frowning curls
Which wrap his forehead; and ere long be heard,
From the deep cavern of his lordly throat
The growl inſufferable. Not more dread,
And not more fullen the profoundeſt peal
Of the far-diſtant ſtorm, which o'er the deep,
Cloth'd in the pall of midnight premature,
At evening bangs, and jars the ſolid earth
With its remote exploſion. Tramples then
The ſurly brute impatient of diſdain,
And ſpurns the ſoil with irritated hoof,
Himſelf inhaler of the duſty ſhow'r
Himſelf inſulted by the pebbly cloud,
Which his vain fury raiſes. Nothing fear'd,
Let him incens'd from agitated lungs
Blow his ſhrill trump acute till echo ring,
And with a leer of malice ſteal away,
Aſſault and vengeance ſwearing ere be long!